CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 10, No. 5 TORONTO, JANUARY 31, 1945 $2.00 Per Annum

Exhibs Fight 'Nuisance Tax'

Toronto Meeting Lays Plans For Organizing Opposition

Ontario exhibitors from many communities met in the Victoria Theatre, Toronto, last Wednesday afternoon to determine a course of action in case it is revealed that it is the government's intention to cause a collection of a 10 per cent tax on all who wish to purchase admission tickets to motion picture theatres.

The meeting decided to appoint

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NFB Calls Back Balkan Short

"Balkan Powder Keg," a National Film Board short in the "World in Action" series, distributed internationally by United Artists, has been withdrawn after its initial playdate at the Uptown, Toronto.

The two-reeler was erased from

(Continued on Page 2)

Sunday Shows Target in Que.

Stricter enforcement of Sunday entertainment in Quebec may be made in the future if the present controversy continues.

The Quebec Government issued an order recently cancelling Sunday stage performances and Montreal amusements were affected.

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Kirby Burns, Fireman, Back From Overseas

Kirby Burns, formerly of Famous Players, is back after more than two years of fighting fires in Britain. Kirby, a volunteer fireman in Streetsville, went into that branch of the service when the navy turned him down after a low medical category.

He and his dad, Paramount's popular Hugh Burns, were around saying hello the other afternoon.

Ask him enough questions about what he's seen and the answers will make your hair stand up.

M. S. Ferris Buys Alcan 16 Mm. Circ

Nipigon, Red Bank and Schreiber, Ontario, 16 mm. situations, have been acquired from Premier Operating by Ferris Theatres Limited for a reported price of $4,000. S. M. Ferris, president of the company which bears his name, negotiated the purchase.

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THE INDUSTRY STAND

The special meeting of Ontario exhibitors was called at the urgent request of many who live in small Ontario communities. These members had been inspired to request a general meeting because rumors of imposition of the amusement tax had alarmed their fellow-citizens and attracted vigorous expressions of opposition.

The exhibitor of motion pictures in Ontario is well aware of the public's dislike of this type of tax, referred to usually as a "nuisance tax," no matter under what guise, and sympathizes with it because films, being the cheapest and most popular form of entertainment, draw their main patronage from those who earn ordinary salaries. It is they who can least afford an increase in the price of admission to their favorite theatres and it is they who will be forced to pay it. Trade union organizations have already made known their disapproval of this rumored measure.

The chief purpose of the meeting was to give leadership to such public opinion as is opposed to the return of the amusement tax in Ontario in the considered belief that such opinion expresses the will of the people.

We feel that it is our duty to use our own medium to make known our position and that of the public, as well as to provide facilities through which those who do not speak through organized groups may join in the opposition.

A summary of organized and unorganized opinion will do much to enlighten the Ontario Government as to the wishes of those it represents.

—N. A. Taylor, president, Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario.

Zukor Thanks FPCC 25-Year Veterans

Adolph Zukor, founder of Famous Players, chairman of its present board of directors and a distinguished and historic personage in the motion picture industry, delivered a personal and heart-warming acknowledgement of their services to charter members of Famous Players Canadian Corporation's 25-Year Club at their first dinner held in the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, last week. He was introduced by J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of the Canadian wing of Famous Players, who stated that Mr. Zukor's determination to bring to the screen the quality of entertainment the public was entitled to had placed that medium in competition with the stage and changed the character of films.

"Tonight I feel a rebirth," Mr.

(Continued on Page 8)

Cohen Succeeded By Babe Coval

When Babe Coval left the Montreal branch management of Warners to take charge of Trinidad, he replaced Lester Cohen, who had been transferred to Panama.

Levey's Big Plans

Jules Levey will spend $2,300,000 for two pictures if he can get studio space. UA will distribute if and when pix are finished.

The Gentle Sex If ever a picture completely vindicated itself as a story of the war-winning gentle sex and as boxoffice entertainment — this is it. It's EMPIRE-UNIVERSAL. Book this boxoffice booster now!

Film Weekly

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HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

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NFB Withdrawal

Celluloid has explosive qualities in more ways than one. The National Film Board has been forced to withdraw "Balkan Powder Keg" from circulation because it did not meet the views of some.

Perhaps that was the best thing to do. But if it was a question of peace at any price on the part of the NFB, the withdrawal of the short — or any short — is to be regretted. It is almost impossible for a medium of public communication to go along in a Democracy without being occasionally accused of either the sin of commission or omission. No newspaper has that experience and it isn't likely that the National Film Board will.

This applies particularly to the Balkan situation, which is so touchy at this time that it is impossible to report it without drawing disagreement from one or more of the minorities with divergent points of view. Even Prime Minister Churchill added confusion to the situation by describing the ELAS as "Trotskyites," political dissenters opposed to the Soviet regime.

This periodical demanded the withdrawal from the screen of the NFB's "Gates of Italy" in 1943 because that subject, made hastily, erred on the side of ommission in that it did not explain the nature of Fascism or go after it hard enough. We felt that most enlightened opinion would be opposed to it, since the main concern of the country was the war against Fascism. There is a much greater division of opinion about "Balkan Powder Keg," thus less reason for pulling it out.

Periodic disagreement with National Film Board shorts, rather than be deplored, should be regarded in proper light. It is proof that the Board is not a namby-pamby outfit that compromises its duty of presenting facts as it sees them in order to avoid stirring opposition.

The National Film Board must have force and conviction to retain its reputation as a virile, honest medium.

* * *

The Film and Trade

Perhaps the answer to J. Arthur Rank's sweeping action on the film fronts of the world is to be found in the recent statement of Lord Woolton, Minister of Reconstruction.

Lord Woolton stated recently that Britain was ready to increase its appropriation for backing export trade from $337,500,000 to almost three times that.

"The world abroad," said Lord Woolton, "is also hungry for our products and we must not tempt customers overseas to find other sources of supply."

Let us remember John Grierson's estimate that a foot of film equals a dollar in trade and the recent statement of Tom Connors, in charge of distribution for Fox, that foreign films must be given more screen time on this side so that Hollywood films can get screen time in other lands. Representation on foreign screens, he said, was tied up with the export of goods made in United States and Canada.

Apparently both the USA and Britain recognize the relationship of films to export trade. American films followed American troops into Italy while the British fumed and complained that commercial attaches went in in uniform. Not long after British films moved into France quickly while Rank bought theatres in that country, and the Americans charged that plane priorities had gone to British commercial representatives.

It can be seen from all this that J. Arthur Rank holds a high place in the esteem of the British Government. There is no doubt that his success will be of considerable help in putting Britain on her economic feet after the war.

Exhibs Plan to Join Tax Fight

(Continued from Page 1)

a committee to take charge of a campaign of opposition — if such a campaign becomes necessary. The first duty of this committee will be to appoint a representative delegation of exhibitors to call on the cabinet for the purpose of receiving information and presenting the views of the trade.

Mayor F. O. Graham of Kingsville, one of the speakers introduced by Chairman N. A. Taylor, said that a reduction in the educational tax would benefit owners of large property holdings. Making up this depleted revenue through a theatre tax was, in effect, transferring the burden to those in the smallest income brackets.

J. J. Fitzgibbons made known the fact that the CCF and the Liberals, from all indications, would be opposed to the tax. The purpose of the meeting was to make preparations that may or may not be of use. Enquiries by mail as to the intentions of the government were not answered.

Representatives of both Ontario exhibitor associations were on the platform and any future action will be shared by all exhibitors, whether or not they belong to an association. Distributors will also join in the activity and share the cost.

Kent to Britain

Larry Kent of 20th-Fox is now in Britain as the company's representative with Gaumont-British, in which Fox holds minority stock. J. Arthur Rank holds the

Warner Profits Off, Competition to Grow

Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc., reports net profit of $6,953,462 for the fiscal year ended Aug. 31, or $1.87 a common share, compared with $8,238,483, or $2.12 a common share, for the preceding year.

"Business in the British Isles during the past year has been the largest in its history, owing in part to the presence of a large number of American soldiers," says the report.

"There are indications that following the war the American motion picture industry will face increased English competition, not only in the British Isles, but in the world market."

M. S. Ferris Buys Alcan 16 Mm. Circ

(Continued from Page 1)

Ferris Theatres has been quietly exploring and developing the 16 mm. field in Ontario, Mr. Ferris having realized its potentialities some years ago.

A situation was established in Heron Bay recently and the company contemplates opening regular showings in Rossport and Cartier. It acquired the situation in White River recently.

Since Ferris Theatres has been active in MacTier for a long time, it now provides 16 mm. shows in every divisional point along the CPR line between Toronto and Port Arthur in which there is no 35 mm. house.

The 16 mm. exhibition field has grown tremendously in Canada in the last few years. This has come about so quietly that neither the 16 mm. distributors association nor the theatre inspection branch of Ontario has a list of those places which have become permanent situations and are advertised as "theatres."

Removal of authority over public halls from the theatre inspection branch after the recent Hamilton fire has placed the exhibition of 16 mm. reels in the hands of local officials.

Mono's Spanish Lady

First of six Monogram Spanish-dubbed films, "Lady, Let's Dance," has been booked for opening at Mexico City's Alameda Theatre.

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THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 10, No. 5 REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK $2.00 Per Annum

And Now Tomorrow

with Alan Ladd, Loretta Young, Susan Hayward

Paramount 85 Mins.

TEAR-INCITING FILM IS WORTHY DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT OF SPECIAL APPEAL TO WOMEN.

The Rachel Field novel has been turned into a satisfactory screen drama under the capable guidance of Associate Producer Fred Kohlmar. The picture is one that will appeal strongly to the femmes, from whom it should elicit tears in generous quantity.

"And Now Tomorrow" is the moving story of the daughter of a wealthy family cursed by a deafness that threatens to ruin her romantic happiness. To her rescue comes a young doctor from the other side of the tracks. In curing her he falls in love with her. The hitch is that the girl is engaged to be married to one of her own set. The problem is solved when the patient discovers her fiance and sister are carrying on a romance. It's the old story told in interesting terms.

The acting is first-rate. Alan Ladd and Loretta Young play doctor and patient. The fiance and the sister are enacted by Barry Sullivan and Susan Hayward.

CAST: Alan Ladd, Loretta Young Susan Hayward, Barry Sullivan, Beulah Bondi, Cecil Kellaway, Grant Mitchell, Helen Mack, Darryl Hickman, Anthony L. Caruso, Jonathan Hale, Conrad Binyon, Connie Leon, George M. Carleton, Leo Bulgakov.

CREDITS: Associate Producer, Fred Kohlmar; Director, Irving Pichel; Screenplay, Frank Partos, Raymond Chandler; Based on novel by Rachel Field; Musical Score, Victor Young; Cameraman, Daniel L. Fapp; Art Directors, Hans Dreier, Hal Pereira; Special Effects, Farciot Edouart; Film Editor, Duncan Mansfield; Sound, Earl Hayman, Joel Moss; Set Decorator, Ted von Hemert.

DIRECTION, Fine. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

John T. Fiddes Dies After Long Illness

John T. Fiddes, theatre manager and singer, died recently in the Winnipeg General hospital, at the age of 65. He had been in poor health for four years. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, he came to Canada as a boy. After living in Toronto for some years, he came to Winnipeg in 1910 as a singer for the Allan theatres, appearing at the old Monarch theatre on Portage Avenue. In 1921 he became manager of the Capitol theatre and was later manager of the Starland, Lyceum and College theatres.

Dark Waters

with Merle Oberon, Franchot Tone

UA 90 Mins.

CAPITALLY PRODUCED MELODRAMA IS DEPRESSING ENTERTAINMENT EXCELLENTLY ACTED.

"Dark Waters," Benedict Bogeaus production, rates notice on the strength of the tenseness with which it has been told, the excellence of its atmospheric treatment and the high quality of the acting. The film's prime handicap is that it is depressing.

The story, which doesn't rate the fine handling it has been given, moves at a deliberate pace under the taut direction of Andre De Toth, who worked from a Joan Harrison - Marian Cockrell screenplay derived from the Saturday Evening Post yarn by the latter and Frank Cockrell.

The yarn, laid in the bayou country of Louisiana, weaves a tale of black vilaliny in which a trio of scoundrels headed by Thomas Mitchell plots to get possesison of a plantation that belonged to the uncle and aunt of Merle Oberon, who has gone there to recover from the shock of a torpedoing. Two of the villains pose as the real uncle and aunt, who actually have been murdered. When Mitchell attempts to get Miss Oberon out of the way, Franchot Tone, her doctor-sweetheart, comes to her rescue.

CAST: Merle Oberon, Franchot Tone, Thomas Mitchell, Fay Bainter, John Qualen, Elisha Cook, Jr., Rex Ingram, Odette Myrtil, Eugene Borden, Eileen Coghlan, Nina May McKinney, Alan Napier, Rita Beery.

CREDITS: Producer, Benedict Bogeaus; Executive Producer, James Nasser; Director, Andre De Toth; Screenplay, Joan Harrison, Marian Cockrell; Based on story by Frank and Marian Cockrell; Cameramen, Archie Stout, John Mescall; Art Director, Charles Odds; Musical Score, Dr. Miklos Rosza; Set Decorator, Maurice Yates, Dance Director, Jack Crosby; Sound, Frank Webster; Film Editor, James Smith.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

Together Again

with Irene Dunne, Charles Boyer and Charles Coburn

Columbia 93 Mins.

THOROUGHLY DELIGHTFUL, LAUGH-PROVOKING COMEDY IS BOUND TO SCORE HEAVILY.

Here is one of the most thoroughly delightful, laughter-provoking comedies filmed in many moons. It has sparkling performances by Irene Dunne, Charles Boyer and Charles Coburn, while newcomers Mona Freeman and Jerome Courtland, are two of the most promising youngsters seen in some time.

Charles Vidor has done a grand job of directing and many kudos are due Producer Virginia Van Upp, who also wrote the screenplay in collaboration with F. Hugh Herbert. The original story is by Stanley Russell and Harold Biberman.

Irene Dunne plays a young widow, who is mayor of Brookhaven, Vt. Her father, Charles Coburn, is anxious for her to marry again and is happy when she meets Charles Boyer, a New York sculptor. Boyer comes to Brookhaven to repair the civic statue of Irene's deceased husband and falls in love with Irene. There are many amusing complications before Boyer finally wins Irene.

CAST: Irene Dunne, Charles Boyer, Charles Coburn, Mona Freeman, Jerome Courtland, Elizabeth Patterson, Charles Dingle, Walter Baldwin, Fern Emmett, Frank Puglia.

CREDITS: Producer, Virginia Van Upp; Director, Charles Vidor; Authors, Stanley Russell and Herbert Biberman; Screenplay, Virginia Van Upp and F. Hugh Herbert; Cameraman, Joseph Walker; Editor, Otto Meyer; Art Director, Stephen Goosson and Van Nest Polglase; Musical Score by Werner R. Heymann; Musical Director, M. W. Stoloff.

DIRECTION, Excellent. PHOTOGRAPHY, Very good.

Budd's Centre

Peter Budd has acquired the Centre, Toronto, from Phillip Sandler. He was formerly manager of a number of theatres.

"TEST FILM, 10,000 cycles 35 mm., with easy instructions, so that you can focus your Sound Lens in absolute precision and secure clear sound and the Maximum from your sound System. Just what many theatre owners have longed for! Bargain $6.60."

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Reckless Age

with Gloria Jean, Henry Stephenson, Judy Clark

Universal 63 Mins.

ANOTHER TREATMENT OF AN OLD STORY, SET WITH GOOD ENTERTAINMENT TO LURE FAMILY TRADE.

"Reckless Age" is hardly an appropriate title for this one. "Miraculous Age" would be more in keeping with the situations.

It's the old story of the poor little rich girl who runs away from home to make her own place in society without the aid of her family name. In this case Gloria takes a job as salesgirl in one of her grandfather's chain stores. Suspected of being a "spotter" for the company, Andrew Tombes and Franklin Pangborn follow her ideas and suggestions to increase sales.

Grandpa gets a clue of her whereabouts and finally permits her to lead her own life.

Harold Nicholas, one of the famed dancing brothers, tops all the entertainment with his vocal and dance arrangement of "Mama Eu Quiero."

Supporting Gloria, the Delta Rhythm Boys, Judy Clark, and Jack Gilford, supply the other musical bits to fill the bill.

CAST: Gloria Jean, Henry Stephenson, Kathleen Howard, Franklin Pangborn, Andrew Tombes, Marshal Thompson, Jane Darwell, Lloyd Corrigan, Judy Clark, Jack Gilford, Chester Clute, The Delta Rhythm Boys, Harold Nicholas.

CREDITS: Produced and Directed by Felix E. Feist; Story, Al Martin; Cameraman, Jerome Ash; Musical Director, Sam Freed, Art Directors, John B. Goodman and Harold H. MacArthur; Sound, Bernard B. Brown; Set Decorator, Russel A. Gausman; Film Editor, Ray Curtiss; Gowns, Vera West.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Fair.

Ross is President Of B&F Manager

The B & F Managers' Association met recently and held its election of officers for 1945. Lou Ross, Lansdowne, was elected President; Ted Smith, York, Secretary; Leo Bloom, Century, Treasurer. Directors—Art Grover, Carlton; Ron Hall, Gerrard; and Jack Hutt, LaPlaza. Tom Materfield, Eastwood, will handle publicity.

Tom Waterfield, retiring president, thanked the boys for their support during 1944 and wished the new president good luck for his term of office.

It was decided to hold a luncheon meeting on the first Wednesday of every month at 11 a.m.

RKO's 'The Master Race' Is Tough and Timely

EDWARD A. GOLDEN'S "The Master Race" is a powerful picture that is a natural successor to "Hitler's Children," also a Golden production. It is timely and exciting.

Main idea of the film is the Nazi plan to go underground in case of defeat in order to keep their political faith alive. They plan to fight again and next time conquer.

The film is frankly melodramatic, having its share of out-and-out heroes and heels.

A large and interesting cast makes an excellent motion picture of it. The Nazi idea is presented through that fine actor, George Coulouris as Colonel von Beck, who gets his just deserts in the end. Democracy is represented by Stanley Ridges as Major Phil Carson. Other popular players in the cast are Osa Massen, Carl Esmond, Helen Beverly, Morris Carnovsky, Paul Guilfoyle and Gavin Muir.

Sure Did

Dale Shulman, chief of staff of the Eglinton, was at the Famous Players banquet and she sure looked purty in her bright uniform as she assisted in the distribution of the prizes.

Travelling Man

Harold Hitchinson, who retired voluntarily last year from the management staff of FPCC, has served in 24 houses during his time with the company.

Roll 'Em ....

Busiest bunch at the charter members' dinner of the 25-Year-Club was the Associated Screen News gang, operating under the watchful eye of Frank O'Byrne and the direction of Jack Chisholm. Earl Clark was at the camera, Fred Gavin handled the lighting, Bill Duncan, sound and Dorothy Dunn script. Art Knowlton was there too.

Favors

Wives of the members of the 25-Year Club were presented beautiful silver compacts adorned with the club crest.

Charlie

Good old Charlie Dentlebeck was a popular figure at the party. He joined Famous Players after resigning as chief inspector of theatres for Ontario. Charlie and fourteen more of those present are projectionists.

Hand Across the Lotion

"Will you have some rum?" a host asked one of his guests.

"Demerari" was the reply "or Bay?"

Making the Moist of Each Day

After 20 years in Welland Tom Forhan has been transferred to the Strand, Hamilton, and his departure was marked by a grand article by T. N. Morrison in the Welland-Port Colborne Evening Tribune.

Here is an interesting anecdote as told by Forhan to Morrison:

Once, while backstage at the Princess theatre in Toronto with his brother on an errand, a stagehand pointed to a handsome actor entering a dressing room. "That's John Barrymore," the stagehand whispered. Barrymore was out of his room again in a jiffy and walked straight to George Foran. "My good man," the actor said, "just at the moment I appear to be a trifle short of coin of the realm, and it seems that I can't procure a bottle of your excellent spirits unless I hand over a dollar and a half. Could you advance me that amount as a loan."

George did better. He went out and bought the whisky. The account for $1.50 is not being pressed against the Barrymore estate.

Apt Paraphrase

Some Squareheads were sitting over afternoon coffee the other day and as usual were busy counting the other fellow's money. The fellow who was being added up was not only envied, he was despised.

"He who steals his good name steals trash," said one. "But he who steals his purse — oh boy!"

Notes on R. Young

Judging by Roly Young's printed attitude toward those alleged pulchritudinous peelers at the Casino, he is asking "Is This Strip Necessary?"

That isn't Roly's only adverse stance, according to the lady who called Frank Chamberlain, radio columnist, to find out why Charles Boyer was "looking so old." Frank suggested that Boyer was in Roly's department and that she'd better phone him.

"Phone Roly?" she said. "I wouldn't call him. Roly hates all good-looking men."

Stop, Thief

Will whoever is stealing Ben Cronk's copy of this periodical please stop?

Ain't It the Truth?

Some filmites were talking in hushed whispers about the Momentous Changes, Big Deals and Titanic Battles that are rumored right now. One conversationalist sneered a little at the others and told the story about the local fellow who was helping row Washington across the Delaware.

"How is it going?" the rower asked.

"What do you care?" Washington retorted. "You'll still be rowing the boat when it's all over!"

(P.S.—I don't believe the anecdote but it makes a point.)

Overheard

"He had the floor all night."
"Speechmaking?"
"No, drunk."

To a Friend

"King David and King Soloman
Led merry, merry lives,
With many, many lady friends
And many, many wives;
But when old age crept over them
With many, many qualms,
King Soloman wrote the Proverbs
And King David wrote the
Psalms."

—Naylor

New Title

Sgt. Art Arthur, former Torontonian and a screen writer until he enlisted in the USArmy, is Sergeant in Charge of Athletics and Recreation for his section. He sees that the lads don't run out of medicine balls and phonograph records.

"My alternate title," he writes, "is Sergeant in Charge of Rupture and Rapture."

The Editorial Warrior

"I am a timid, humble soul. I have no heart for fighting. I have no bent for argument, except it be in writing.

"I don't engage in wordy quarrels or shine at public brawling; all that is rot, for I am not a pugilist by calling.

"But when the battle's waged with type, I know no such restriction; I wield the stick of rhetoric, and break their heads with diction.

"I lay men low with adjectives and phrases smooth as satin, and if they still show fight I kill them off with shots of Latin.

"The stoutest adversary falls into a dying spasm, and breathes his last when soundly gassed with logic and sarcasm.

"With adverbs keen I gouge out eyes. I've made a hundred cripples of men who've found I hold my ground when armed with participles.

"There may be bolder men than I, and more blood thirsty fighters, but I'm a tough egg, sure enough, when the weapons are typewriters."

—Weld County News, Greeley, Col.

Wheeze Guy

Bob Croax, the neighborhood wit, had occasion to introduce Guy Upjohn, RKO booker, to the young lady on the next stool in the Harmony Grill.

"This is Guy," he said.

"Guy who?" was the query.

"Just a Joe named Guy," he answered.

Remember Him?

Lou Guimond, who used to be with United Artists in Toronto, now lives in Alexandra, near Washington, and is in charge of motion picture activities for the American Red Cross.

All The News of The Film World

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Covering Canada's Film Front

THE SHOWMAN SHOW THAT GETS TIMELIER BY THE MINUTE!

RKO RADIO PICTURES

AN EDWARD A. GOLDEN PRODUCTION

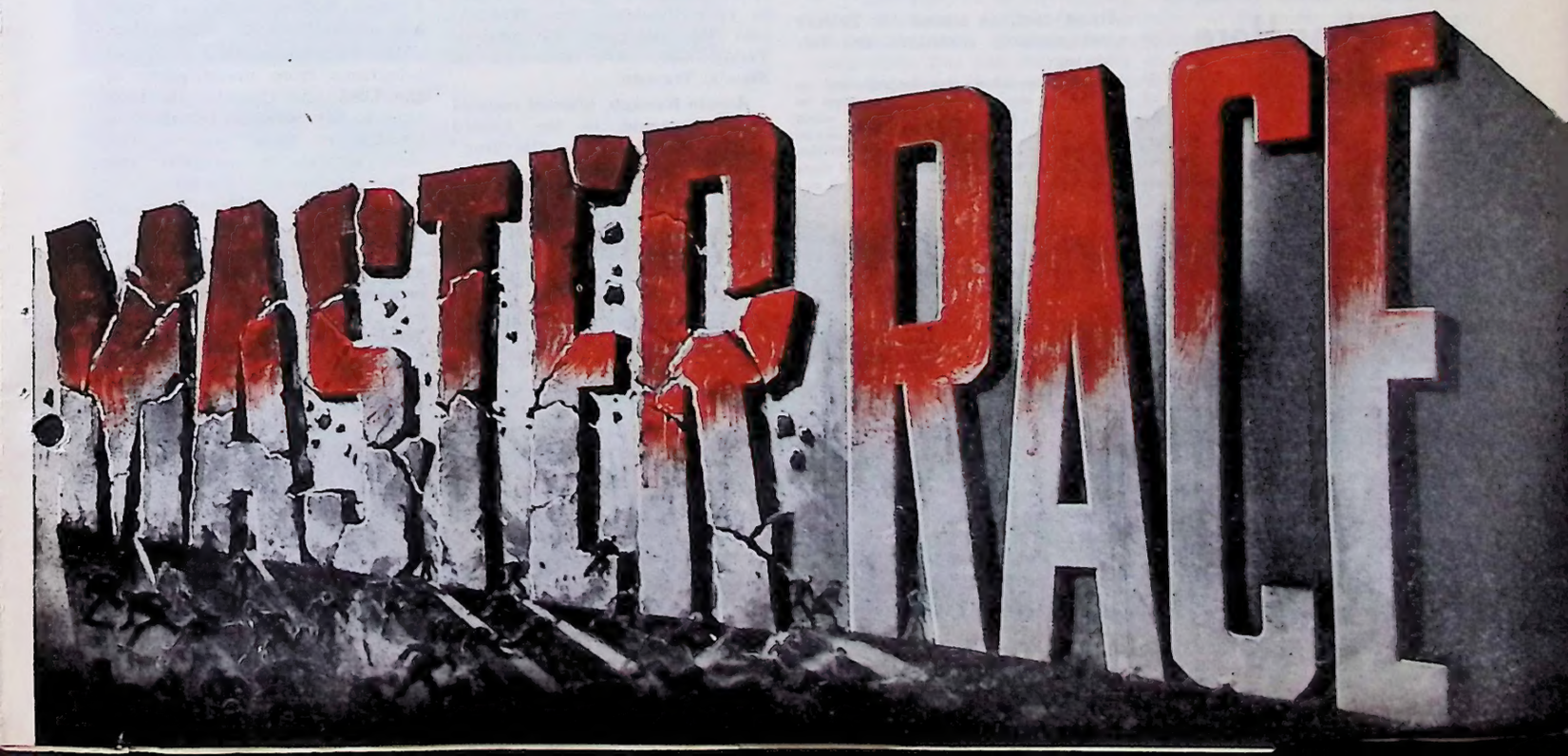
with GEORGE COULOURIS • STANLEY RIDGES • OSA MASSEN • CARL ESMOND • NANCY GATES • MORRIS CARNOVSKY • GAVIN MUIR • PAUL GUILFOYLE

Produced by ROBERT GOLDEN Directed by HERBERT J. BIBERMAN Screen Play by Herbert J. Biberman, Anne Froelick and Rowland Leigh

'S

TODAY — ten times more so than the few weeks ago when it first thundered its shock drama to the first-run screens of America — "THE MASTER RACE" becomes increasingly the "must-see" attraction for every follower of the headlines! . . . Here is the daring picture whose sensational and thrilling theme continues to inspire an endless flood of newspaper editorials, magazine articles and radio comment on "What shall we do with the Germans *after* the war?" . . . Here is the picture whose stature as important entertainment grows and grows with every showing — with each new showing adding more praise to the parade of comment which already has included reviews like: "ENGROSSING . . . SHOULD BE SEEN!" Washington Times-Herald; "TIMELY AND POWERFUL!" Cleveland Plain Dealer; "UNUSUALLY WELL-MADE PICTURE!" Time Magazine; "A VITALLY IMPORTANT THEME!" Cue; "EVERYONE SHOULD SEE IT!" St. Paul Dispatch; "STRONG . . . TIMELY . . . EXCITING!" Charm; "VALID AND MOVING!" Red Book; "FLASHES WITH EXCITING VIGOR!" Dallas News; "GENERATES TERRIFIC TENSION!" Chicago Daily News. And WALTER WINCHELL devotes an *entire column* to the brutal breed this picture so vividly portrays!

It's front-page hot and super-exploitable, so get your copy of the Pressbook NOW and GO TO TOWN!



Sunday Shows Target in Que.

(Continued from Page 1)

Night club floor shows have been dropped and the license of one burlesque house was cancelled when it did not comply with the order. City authorities were forced to stop renting market halls for Sunday afternoon and evening entertainments.

The Montreal City Council devoted considerable time to a discussion of the order and a number of members went on record as being opposed to it.

"I am in favor of enforcing the law as much as anyone else, but I think it is a foolish law, and obsolete," said Councillor Emile Dubreuil. "It was adopted before moving pictures existed and takes no cognizance of them. But there must not be different applications of the law for two different classes of people. If Sunday amusements are banned, then ban them all, including theatres, professional concerts, Sunday bingos, every single one of them. If you can't close them all, you have no right to close any of them."

Authority for the action of the Duplessis Government is contained in the Lord's Day Act, a federal law, and the Revised Statutes of Quebec, 1925. It is recognized that the Government did not intend the order to apply to motion picture theatres.

The original act was written before motion pictures became popular and made no mention of them. Because of this Sunday performances have been permitted in Quebec.

Press Asks More UK Films Here

Ever since news of the deal between Odeon of Canada and Odeon of Britain requests for more playing time for British films have been cropping up on the editorial pages of Canadian newspapers, with occasional letters to the editor in support of such sentiment.

The Ottawa Evening Citizen, referring to the partnership, said in an editorial:

Movie-goers will watch with interest the results of the move. Just now, the handling of British films in Canada is far from satisfactory. Today it is seldom that movies from London are shown in Ottawa except as fillers on double programs, and frequently they come and go without being noticed. In the case of others, such films, say, as "Thunder Rock" and "This Happy Breed" are never heard of for months after they have been praised in the London newspapers. Even so, they are presented with trepidation and hesitant publicity.

The official statement of the Paul L. Nathanson and J. Arthur Rank deal, as issued for British consumption, contained the following:

The transaction may be regarded as a further step in Mr. Rank's plans to form associations throughout the world which will make possible an assured market for films produced in British studios and thus make the export of films profitable to the industry and a real national asset.

British films have always been well received in Canada and they have found their best outlet through the theatres controlled by the Odeon company.

The new association will, it is hoped, result in the expansion of the Odeon circuit in Canada and make more playing-time available to British films, whether or not they are made by producers associated by Mr. Rank's group.

Mr. Rank has given an undertaking to the President of the Board of Trade that he will do everything in his power to obtain distribution on the Odeon circuit in Canada of any British films. Quality and suitability will be the only test.

Rank recently bought the Denham laboratories from Sir Alexander Korda. He is also closing a deal through which Eagle-Lion will acquire Ealing product for distribution.

Zukor Thanks FPCC 25-Year Veterans

(Continued from Page 1)

Zukor told members, guests and their wives. "All the men and women here have gone along with me from the very beginning. My wishes, my dreams, my hopes —my success came through their help."

Famous Players was a success from the start, he said, and Canada was had an important connection with that fact. "It was our good fortune to get Mary Pickford in the early days." The Toronto-born star, against the advice of her friends, joined Zukor as his first leading lady, believing with him in the future of the then scoffed-at films. "So Canada," Zukor commented, "played a part in putting the screen on a higher plane."

ADOLPH ZUKOR

Chairman of the board of directors of Paramount Pictures, who visited Toronto to attend the first annual banquet of the Famous Players' 25-Year Club.

His plan to put "Famous Players in Famous Plays," turned down by William A. Brady and endorsed by Dan Frohman, caused a change in the size of theatres. The public was attracted by "name" players and the movie houses of that time were too small so Zukor and others built theatres with seating capacities as large as those of legitimate theatre and time proved that even they were too small.

Mr. Zukor, whose address was enthralling, recalled that he had played talking pictures on the Bennett circuit in 1908. Live actors synchronized lip movements with those of the characters on the screen. In Montreal he hired French actors.

He revealed that a Paramount production unit devoted to short subjects may be set up in Canada in the near future.

Mayor Present

Mayor Robert Saunders brought greetings from the people of Toronto and from the municipal corporation. He made a witty and humorous speech in which he paid particular tribute to the war effort of the company. The screen, mixing education with amusement, had made the world a smaller place and spread understanding. "Over the years I have spent many delightful evenings in your theatres," His Worship told the listeners. He praised Teddy Gee, now doorman of Shea's, Toronto.

Austin Keough, general counsel for Paramount in the United States, described it as "thrilling" that so many had remained with the organization from its first days. Famous Players here was Canadian-managed, Mr. Keough said, and its healthy condition was due to wise, able and vigorous leadership.

Rueben W. Bolstad, vice-president of Famous Player, stated that the company could be pleased with the part it plays in Canadian economy. In 1944, he pointed out, 120,000,000 fans patronized FPCC theatres. It had paid out $30 millions during the year, $10 millions of which was in taxes, six millions in wages, eight millions in rentals and one million in newspaper advertising. Only 17 cents of each dollar left the country.

Fitzgibbons Chairman

J. J. Fitzgibbons acted as chairman throughout the entire evening and he and R. W. Bolstad presented each member with a lapel button, watch or bond, and a certificate of membership.

Mr. Fitzgibbons read dozens of telegrams from many parts of the USA and Canada. He took time to pay personal tribute to a number of those present who were serving in executive and other capacities.

Jack Arthur thanked the company in behalf of the members.

Associated Screen News photographed the event in color and recorded it in sound. The meeting next week in Vancouver of the Western branch will be attended by leading executives of the company.

The proceedings were opened with toast to the King, followed by one to the President of the United States, both being proposed by Norman Robertson, K.C.

Among those who wired congratulations were Premier King and George A. Drew, Premier of Ontario.

NFB Calls Back Balkan Short

(Continued from Page 1)

booking sheets at the request of the Ottawa government, it was explained by Ross McLean, deputy film commissioner. John Grierson, national film commissioner, was absent from Ottawa at the time several complaints were made about the short.

"Because various phases of current conditions in that area are at present what might be considered highly controversial, and because these matters might be subjects for discussion shortly by Allied leaders, it was felt that anything which might arouse further controversy or unnecessary discussion of those matters should not be fostered," said McLean. "The government recommended that the picture be withdrawn for the time being so the board has taken it out of circulation."

Future release of "Balkan Powder Keg" will depend on political developments in that troubled area.

This isn't the first time opposition has forced NFB subjects off the commercial screen. In 1943 "Gates of Italy" brought criticism because it didn't cover the subject sufficiently. Although it played Canadian theatres changes had to be made before United Artists proceeded with its distribution in foreign lands.

Empire-Universal's 'The Way Ahead' Hailed By USA Critics as Enthralling Experience

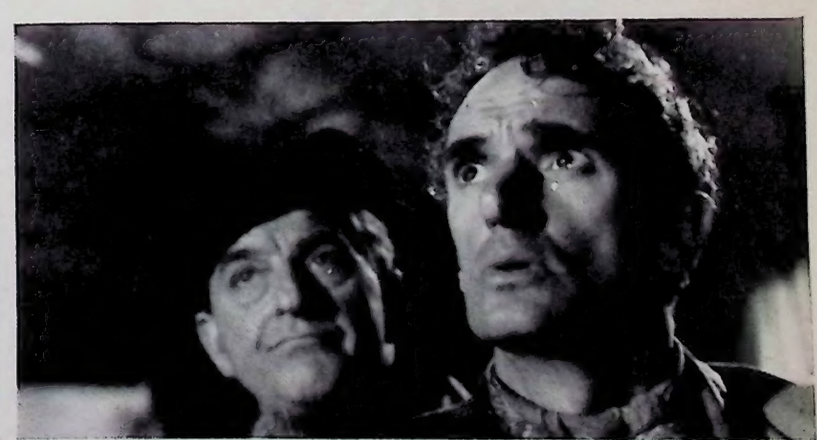
WHEN a British-made film draws frank and unrestrained praise from American trade press critics, it becomes more than a fine film — it becomes a major curiosity.

That's the case with "The Way Ahead," a film starring Lt. Col. David Niven of the British Army, borrowed for just that purpose. The film has created an atmosphere that is personally uplifting, one in which the quiet nobility of the average soldier becomes apparent in a most inspiring way.

It is the story of the British Army told in human terms. It does for the Army what "In Which We Serve" did for the Navy.

The story is of twelve men who join the army. It shows their fear of change, their early resentment of discipline and their transformation, step by step, from civilian to soldier in training and mentality. For the patron it is an enthralling process.

Raymond Huntley, Billy Hartnell and Stanley Holloway, among others, support Niven in an excellent way. Carol Reed directed. His work, along with that of the other technicians, has much to do with the success of "The Way Ahead."



In Preparation:

CANADIAN FILM WEEKLY'S

Annual Poll of Critics and Exhibitors

To Determine the

CANADIAN 'TEN BESTS'

Esquire's

THUNDER ROCK

and

SAN DEMETRIO, LONDON

in

6-SIX-6

Ten Best Lists!

- Toronto Daily Star critic, Jack Karr, chooses THUNDER ROCK among Ten Best.
- Toronto Globe and Mail critic, Roly Young, picks SAN DEMETRIO, LONDON as classic of the year.
- Montreal Gazette columnist, Herbert Whittaker, lists both SAN DEMETRIO, LONDON and THUNDER ROCK among year's best.
- National Board of Review gives Blue Ribbon to THUNDER ROCK.

and

- Archer Winston of the New York Post gives No. 1 place to THUNDER ROCK.

In the Same Class, Watch For These Winners—

IT HAPPENED ONE SUNDAY | WARN THAT MAN | **ESQUIRE FILMS** | CHAMPAGNE CHARLIE | THURSDAY'S CHILD

Toronto — Montreal — Saint John — Winnipeg — Calgary — Vancouver

The Heart of Show Business

Canada's first Variety Tent is being organized now. A committee of 11, of which Oscar Hanson is chairman, has applied for a charter in behalf of members of the Toronto amusement field and it is hoped that the showmen of other Canadian cities will do the same.

Along with the opportunity to do good work, Variety maintains club-rooms where members of the amusement industry can spend several friendly hours together. No such centre exists in any Canadian City now.

Presented here is the story of Variety — its history and its work.

ON Thanksgiving Day, 1928, a month-old baby was found in the nursery of the Sheridan Square Theatre, Pittsburgh, with a scribbled note pinned to her dress, signed "A broken-hearted mother":

"I cannot afford to keep this child. Her name is Catherine. I have six others. She was born October 24 and I am leaving her in this theatre because of what I have heard of the charity of show people, with a prayer that you will care for her."

That unscheduled event at this western Pennsylvania motion picture theatre led to the founding sixteen years ago of the Variety Club of Pittsburgh, because the unmarried house manager, who discovered the child, needed help and advice in the care of the baby.

Somewhere, but not in Pittsburgh, there is an anonymous sixteen-year-old girl living happily today with adopted parents. If she knew her true life story she could call herself the inspiration of the 26 Variety Clubs now dedicating themselves to good works.

In his final week as Secretary of State, Cordell Hull received from the Variety Clubs their annual Humanitarian Award, which had in previous years been given to Sister Elizabeth Kenny, Martha Berry, Father E. J. Flanagan, and to the late George Washington Carver.

At this recent convention in Washington, theatre men from every state in the Union gave their annual accounting of the humanitarian work being done in their various communities. In honor of Catherine, Tent No. 1 in Pittsburgh each year adopts another child for whom it finds a home with loving parents. Meanwhile, underprivileged thousands have been the recipients of help from the showmen of western Pennsylvania under the leadership of John H. Harris, founder of the first Variety Club and "big boss" of the twenty-five others now in operation.

First Columbus and then Cincinnati set up tents modeled after the Pittsburgh inspiration, and are now old hands at helping the unfortunates in Ohio.

In St. Louis last year 6,000 babies were cared for at the nursery for service men's wives and children at the Union Station. Largely through their efforts in 35 athletic centres equipped by the Variety Tent, there was a 27 per cent decrease in juvenile delinquency last year in St. Louis, which led all cities in crime reduction.

The 230 members of the Detroit Tent have found their greatest usefulness in supplying equipment for the hard-of-hearing to 200 deaf children from kindergarten to college age. During 1945 they have set aside $15,000 to be spent in supplying ear phones to those with deficient hearing and in teaching lip reading instead of sign language to the totally deaf.

Learning that there was no hospital equipment for the treatment of brain tumors in Buffalo, the Variety Tent there, consisting of 133 members, bought and presented to a Buffalo hospital the only brain tumor machine in western New York.

In Albany last year, 450 underprivileged boys were cared for at the variety mountain camp of 30 acres.

The 370 members of the Variety Club in Washington, D.C., have equipped dental clinics in four hospitals, donated an ambulance to the District of Columbia, supplied movies to shut-ins, financed a glaucoma clinic to prevent blindness, and presented to hospitals 20 incubators for premature babies, thus reducing from 29 per cent to 13 per cent the mortality rate of 1,500 infants.

In Minneapolis the Variety Club during 1944 spent $121,000 for local charities, including a gift of $99,000 to the Elizabeth Kenny Institute for treatment of poliomyelitis. During the last decade the Philadelphia Tent spent a total of $400,000 for the treatment of infantile paralysis.

In Omaha a $12,000 fund is being raised for a new building at the Children's Memorial Hospital. Dayton is making contributions to a hospital ward for the Sisters of the Sick. Baltimore maintains a camp for crippled children and helps support the Philburn Home for foundling and wayward children. During 1944, the Variety Club members in Atlanta contributed $175,000 to various local causes, including the rehabilitation of delinquent girls. Two hundred forty-five members in Boston provide movies for shut-ins and conduct a summer camp for boys. The poor children of Charlotte are given free medical attention at a Variety eye, ear, nose and throat clinic. The 274 Chicago members spend about $10,000 annually, and last year cared for 200 children suffering from rheumatic heart trouble. The 309 members in Los Angeles are at present making contributions to a home for asthmatic children, and during 1945 will spend $100,000 to build and operate a hospital for prematurely born infants.

In each city a survey is made of the most urgent community service, and these varied needs are being supplied by the big hearts and hard work of Variety Tents in Indianapolis, Cleveland and Memphis.

The Variety Club Health Center, a 323-room air conditioned hospital, gives physical evidence of the activities of the showmen of Oklahoma. Last year they helped establish in the Oklahoma City Health Center the only mothers' milk bank west of St. Louis. Their 1945 project calls for the erection in Tulsa of a health center for Negroes at a cost of $90,000.

Under the leadership of Robert J. O'Donnell, head barker of National Variety Clubs, the Dallas Tent continues its work on a scale commensurate with the big heart of Texas. In the last decade its 624 members have spent a quarter of a million dollars on their various good works which include a children's clinic, a swimming pool for poor children, a boys' camp on a 40-acre farm, a home for foundling children and a 1,600-acre ranch home for delinquent boys. In giving his report on the Dallas Tent the Texas barked observed that "Humility is the hardest virtue to practice, because as soon as you have achieved humility, you get proud."

It may be some comfort to "a broken-hearted mother" that the child she abandoned in a movie theatre sixteen years ago has inspired literally a million good deeds for other children.

All-Time Beauts Picked by Critic

One of the most interesting forms of movie promotion under non-movie auspices is being demonstrated in the Toronto Daily Star currently. In that newspaper Augustus Bridle, its all-around authority on the arts for the past 24 years, has named the nine most beautiful motion picture actresses of all time and has invited the public to name the tenth.

Mrs. Bridle, the Star explains, "has been an expert on the movies since they climbed out of ignominy and became a definite form of theatre." Asked to pick the ten most beautiful actresses in movie history, the veteran critic stopped at nine. "There isn't another who belongs in that company," he told the writer of the story. "You'll have to call it the 'nine best' and let it go at that."

The reader is then asked to use the ballot at the end of the story to cast a vote for the movie queen he or she believes should occupy 10th place.

Mr. Bridle's nine choices are:
Vilma Banky
Corrine Griffith
Billie Dove
Gloria Swanson
Jean Harlow
Marlene Dietrich
Greta Garbo
Norma Shearer
Vivien Leigh

5 "BESTS" FOR DARRYL F. ZANUCK'S

WILSON

DIRECTED BY
HENRY KING

WRITTEN BY
LAMAR TROTTI

Filmdom's Best in 1944
Selected by Michael Sheridan in the Toronto Star Weekly

BEST PICTURE: 20th-Century-Fox's "Wilson."

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR: Alexander Knox for "Wilson."

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS: Claudette Colbert in "Since You Went Away."

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR: Barry Fitzgerald in "Going My Way."

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS: Gladys Cooper in "Mrs. Parkington."

BEST COMEDIAN: Bop Hope.

BEST PRODUCER: Darryl F. Zanuck for "Wilson."

BEST DIRECTOR: Henry King for "Wilson."

BEST CAMERAMAN: Leon Shamroy, A.S.C., for "Wilson."

MOST PROMISING MALE NEWCOMER: Gregory Peck for R.K.O.'s "Days Of Our Glory."

AND THIS! MOST PROMISING FEMALE NEWCOMER: June Haver, "Irish Eyes Are Smiling."

AND THIS! WINNING STUDIO: 20th-Century-Fox. based on six of the 11 above classifications going to that studio.

20th CENTURY-FOX **ALWAYS THE WINNER!**